



Town of Bucksport

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Phase 1 Inventory & Analysis

BUCKSPORT
NEXT



Town of Bucksport COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



A LITTLE RECENT HISTORY...

- The last Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2003.
- The Town hired HCPC consultant Tom Martin in 2013.
- The Town Council appointed the 16-member committee.
- Bucksport NEXT is the continuing effort to Plan Bucksport.
- The CPC meets each month's second Monday at 5pm in the Jewett School conference room. The public is invited.
- Outreach is coordinated through extra monthly meetings.
- ***All information, agendas, minutes, etc. is posted to:***
[www. Bucksportmaine.gov](http://www.Bucksportmaine.gov) and www.facebook.com/bucksportcompplan



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The clichéd ***“VIEW FROM 30,000 FEET”***



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Chapter 1. Population and Demographics (8 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Bucksport had 4,924 residents in the 2010 US Census.
- Bucksport's average age is rising (more older folks!)
- Bucksport could lose 1/4 of its total population by 2030.
- Bucksport's median income is lower than neighbors.
- ***Mill closure effects have yet to be fully measured...***





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Chapter 2. Economy (8 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- 575 mill jobs were lost, 25% by Bucksport residents.
- 2.6% multiplier effect per ME Department of Labor.
- MDL tracking former mill workers back in the labor force.
- The town hired a new Economic Development Director.
- Many improvements since last Plan to boost econ. dev.

Infrastructure, waterfront, Heritage Park, etc.





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Chapter 3. Housing (8 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- CDBG funds have been used for housing improvement.
- The ME Uniform Building and Energy Code was adopted.
- Bank foreclosures average about 1 property per month.
- ***The housing market may change with the town's image.***





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Chapter 4. Transportation (11 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Harbor and rail are valuable for mill site redevelopment.
- A multi-modal facility has been suggested for Bucksport.
- The town's road maintenance is top notch.
- Plans for road improvements are still being developed.
- Alternative modes and public transit are being expanded.





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Chapter 5. Public Facilities and Services (27 pages)

This chapter is organized by six categories:

- Town Government
- Emergency Services
- Educational Services
- Health & Social Services
- Public Works
- Utilities



KEY FINDINGS:

- ***Town, RSU, infrastructure and agency programs adjusting to new economic reality in meeting local needs.***



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Chapter 5. Public Facilities and Services (27 pages)

Town Government

Council-Manager form of government since 1971.



KEY FINDINGS:

- *The town has hired a Community and Economic Development Director to help move forward.*
- *The new Town Manager also does the work of the former Finance Director.*
- *Departments and budgets are being re-worked to better fit current tasks.*



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Chapter 5. Public Facilities and Services (27 pages)

Emergency Services



KEY FINDINGS:

- *The local Hazmat Team is gone with the mill closure.*
- *Use of regional dispatch is contemplated to save cost.*
- *Building fire house Sub-station in Millvale may be reconsidered to save homeowner insurance costs.*
- *Possible changes to ambulance service mulled.*



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Chapter 5. Public Facilities and Services (27 pages)

Educational Services



KEY FINDINGS:

- *The Middle School was completed in 2003.*
- *RSU 25 was formed in 2009 with 4 towns and is willing to expand to keep classrooms in its 4 schools filled.*
- *the Buck Memorial Library is being rehabbed.*
- *RSU works with health initiatives...*



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Chapter 5. Public Facilities and Services (27 pages)

Health & Social Services



KEY FINDINGS:

- *Health Improvement Plan lists **cardiovascular health** as top priority.*
- *Bucksport Regional Health Center and Blue Hill Memorial Hospital **collaborate** to strengthen local primary care and specialty services.*
- *Network of services available to support **the needs of older adults** including Gardner Commons, The Jed Prouty Assisted Living Center, RSU 25's Senior Meal Program, Bucksport Senior Center, Community Action Resource Exchange, Bucksport Community Concerns and the Thriving in Place Program.*
- ***Pre-K Program** established through collaboration between RSU 25 and Child and Family Opportunities.*
- *Plan for **early care and education services** established.*



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Chapter 5. Public Facilities and Services (27 pages)

Public Works & Utilities

KEY FINDINGS:

- ***A new 600,000 gal concrete water storage tank was installed on Silver Lake Road in 2013.***
- ***Natural gas lines were extended into business and residential areas with plans for more.***
- ***The Swirl Concentrator Vortex at Perry's Landing came online in 2008. Secondary wastewater treatment facilities are being built at the plant on Route 1.***





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Chapter 6. RECREATION and CULTURAL RESOURCES (7 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- The 600-seat cultural arts facility opened at BMS.
- Waterfront walkway, trails and parks were expanded.
- Rec Dept. offerings expanded with Youth Coordinator.
- A meals program began at the new Senior Center.
- Arts Festival & “Wednesdays on Main” debuted in 2015.





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Chapter 7. MARINE RESOURCES (7 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Many upgrades to the public waterfront were made.
- More harbor improvements have been outlined.
- The town acquired the marina to enhance services.
- River water quality has improved but has higher goals.





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Chapter 8. WATER RESOURCES (8 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- The mill used up to 18M gallons of fresh water every day.
- The Silver Lake watershed could be over-taxed.
- Maine Water agreed to more tests of its SL source water.
- Steps have begun toward forming a lake association.
- The swimming ban in Silver Lake may be reconsidered.





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Chapter 9. NATURAL RESOURCES (10 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Beginning with Habitat has mapped B's natural areas.
- Bucksport has rare and protected species & habitats.
- Great Pond Mt. Conservation Trust has two properties in Bucksport and conserves regional natural resources.
- Bucksport has scenic views that could be protected.





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Chapter 10. **AGRICULTURAL and FOREST RESOURCES** (4 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Farming is not a major land use in Bucksport with about 6% of the land area devoted to cultivation and pasture.
- About 80% of the town in woodland, with 23% of the forest in “Tree Growth” commercial management .
- There is local interest in establishing a Food Hub.





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Chapter 11. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES (12 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- 9 properties on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 3 prehistoric sites along the Penobscot River.
- 6 archaeological sites per Maine Historic Preservation.
- 34 locally significant historic properties identified.
- Town land use standards protect key historic sites.
- Historic preservation efforts are ongoing.





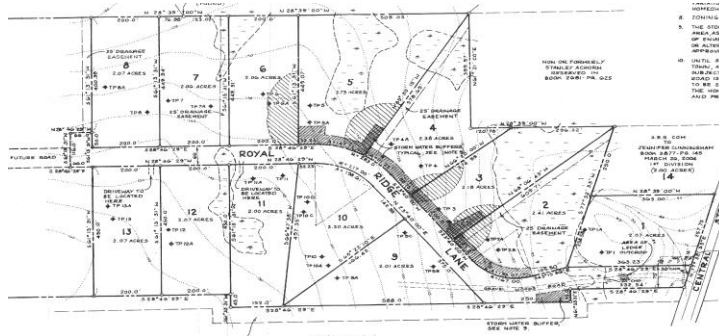
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Chapter 12. EXISTING LAND USE (15 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Recent ordinance changes make for easier applications.
- New digital flood maps improve administration.
- Developers choose rural subdivisions over growth areas.
- Relaxing Shoreland Zoning may help downtown growth.
- ***Mill site area zoning should be reviewed.***





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Chapter 13. FISCAL CAPACITY & CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN (6 pages)

KEY FINDINGS:

- Before the closure, Verso represented 45% of the total property tax .
- “Sudden & Severe” helped recover about 1/2 of the revenue loss.
- Redevelopment should begin to rebuild the town’s tax base.
- The Capital Improvements Program is being reorganized.
- The “Ad Hoc” committee studied options for adjusting the budget.





Town of Bucksport

**The Committee is currently working on
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
“Phase 2” Goals & Objectives
All are welcome to join us.**

**BUCKSPORT
NEXT**



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2016 DRAFT VISION STATEMENT:

Bucksport is a scenic coastal town with thriving rural areas, a technology-rich downtown service center, diverse industrial & business areas, an active multi-modal harbor, and a village; where people of all ages and diverse backgrounds are welcomed to reside, conduct business and recreate. Town officials and citizens strive to bring about the Goals and Objectives of this Plan resulting in a better Bucksport for its residents and visitors.